

Application No. 09/853,197
Amendment dated November 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2004

Docket No. 1232-4714

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, 15 and 17 are independent.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An image sensing apparatus for photographing an image signal of a subject, comprising:

an image sensor that senses an said image signal of a said subject to obtain an image signal for photographing;

an image display device that is capable of displaying a sensed image based on displays said image signal obtained by said image sensor while said image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal;

a display designating unit that designates determines whether or not said sensed image signal is displayed by said image display device when the image of the subject is sensed by said image sensor while said image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal; and

a focus evaluating value obtaining device that obtains a focus evaluating value for adjusting a focus based on said image signal obtained by said image sensor, said focus evaluating value obtaining device obtaining said focus evaluating value based on an image signal which is obtained by said image sensor and corresponds to a part of a region of an display image displayed by said image display device, if said display designating unit does not designate that said sensed image is displayed by said image display device when the image of the subject is sensed by said image sensor

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wherein said focus evaluating value obtaining device obtains said focus evaluating value by reading only a portion of said image sensor when said display designating unit determines that said image signal is not displayed by said image display device while said image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal.

2 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part of the region of said display screen image sensor includes a focusing signed detecting area set in advance.

3 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said focus evaluating value obtaining device obtains said focus evaluating value ~~based on an image signal which is obtained by said image sensor and corresponds to substantially entire region of an display image displayed by said image display device, if said display designating unit designates that said sensed image is displayed by said image display device when the image of the subject is sensed by said image sensor by reading the entire region of said image sensor when said display designating unit determines that said image signal is displayed by said image display device while said image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal.~~

4 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said focus evaluating value is obtained based on a high frequency component of ~~an~~ said image signal obtained by said image sensor.

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5 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a display prohibiting device that prohibits display of said sensed image signal by said image displaying display device at least until photographing processing is completed if said display designation designating unit ~~does not designate~~ determines that said sensed image is displayed by said image display device ~~when the image of the subject is sensed by said image sensor while said image sensing apparatus photographs said sensed image signal~~.

6 (ORIGINAL): The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a focus adjusting device that adjusts a focus based on said focus evaluating value obtained by said focus evaluating value obtaining device.

7 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein designation by said display designation designating unit is stored in a memory as an image display flag.

8 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A control method of an image sensing apparatus for photographing an image signal of a subject, comprising:

an image sensing step by an image sensor that senses ~~an~~ said image signal of a said subject to obtain an image signal for photographing;

an image displaying step by an image display device that is capable of displaying a sensed image based on displays said image signal obtained by said image sensing step while said image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal;

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a display designating step by a display designating unit that designates determines
whether or not said sensed image signal is displayed by said image displaying step when the
image of the subject is sensed by said image sensing step while said image sensing apparatus
photographs said image signal; and

a focus evaluating value obtaining step by a focus evaluating value obtaining
device that obtains a focus evaluating value for adjusting a focus based on said image signal
obtained by said image sensing step, said focus evaluating value obtaining step obtaining said
focus evaluating value based on an image signal which is obtained by said image sensing step
and corresponds to a part of a region of an display image displayed by said image displaying
step if said display designating step does not designate that said sensed image is displayed by
said image displaying step when the image of the subject is sensed by said image sensing step

wherein said focus evaluating value obtaining device obtains said focus
evaluating value by reading only a portion of said image sensor when said display designating
unit determines that said image signal is not displayed by said image display device while said
image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal.

9 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The control method of an image sensing apparatus
according to claim 8, wherein said part of the region of said display screen image sensor includes
a focusing signed detecting area set in advance.

10 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The control method of an image sensing apparatus
according to claim 8, wherein in said focus evaluating value obtaining step, said focus evaluating

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value is obtained based on an image signal which is obtained by said image sensing step and corresponds to substantially entire region of an display image displayed by said image display step if said display designating step designates that said sensed image is displayed by said image displaying step when the image of the subject is sensed by said image sensing step in said focus evaluating value obtaining step by reading the entire region of said image sensor when said display designating unit determines that said image signal is displayed by said image display device while said image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal.

11 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The control method of an image sensing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said focus evaluating value is obtained based on a high frequency component of an said image signal obtained by said image sensing step.

12 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The control method of an image sensing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a display prohibiting step that prohibits display of said sensed image signal by said image displaying step at least until photographing processing is completed if said display designating step does not designate determines that said sensed image is displayed by said image displaying step when the image of the subject is sensed by said image sensing step while said image sensing apparatus photographs said sensed image signal.

13 (ORIGINAL): The control method of an image sensing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

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a focus adjusting step that adjusts a focus based on said focus evaluating value obtained by said focus evaluating value obtaining step.

14 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The control method of an image sensing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein designation by said display designation designating step is stored in a memory as an image display flag.

15 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A storage medium in which a control program of for controlling an image sensing apparatus is stored, wherein said control program comprises comprising codes that, when executed, causes a computer to carry out the steps of:

a code of an image sensing step by an image sensor that obtains an image signal by sensing an image of a subject;

a code of an image displaying step by an image display that is capable of displaying a sensed image based on displays said image signal obtained in said image sensing step while said image sensing apparatus photographs said iamge signal;

a code of a display designating step by a display designating unit that designates determines whether or not the said sensed image is displayed by said image displaying step when an image of the subject is sensed by said image sensing step while said image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal; and

a code of a focus evaluating value obtaining step by a focus evaluating value obtaining device that obtains a focus evaluating value for adjusting a focus based on said image signal obtained by said image sensing step, said focus evaluating value obtaining step obtaining

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~~said focus evaluating value based on an image signal which is obtained by said image sensing step and corresponds to a part of a region of an display image displayed by said image displaying step if said display designating step does not designate that said sensed image is displayed by said image displaying step when the image of the subject is sensed by said image sensing step~~

wherein said focus evaluating value obtaining device obtains said focus evaluating value by reading only a portion of said image sensor when said display designating unit determines that said image signal is not displayed by said image display device while said image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal.

16 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The storage medium according to claim 15, ~~wherein in said focus evaluating value obtaining step, said focus evaluating value is obtained based on an image signal which is obtained by said image sensing step and corresponds to substantially entire region of an display image displayed by said image display step if said display designating step designates that said sensed image is displayed by said image displaying step when the image of the subject is sensed by said image sensing step in said focus evaluating value obtaining step by reading the entire region of said image sensor when said display designating unit determines that said image signal is displayed by said image display device while said image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal.~~

17 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An image sensing apparatus, comprising:

~~an image sensor for sensing configured to sense an image of a subject to output an image signal;~~

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a display for displaying configured to display a sensed image based on said image signal while said image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal;

a designation unit for designating configured to determine whether or not said sensed image signal is displayed by said display when an image is sensed by said image sensor while said image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal; and

a calculation unit for calculating configured to calculate a focus evaluating value for focus adjustment based on said image signal, wherein said calculation unit calculates said focus evaluating value based on a part of said image signal if said designation unit designates not to display said sensed image

wherein said calculation unit calculates said focus evaluating value by reading only a portion of said image sensor when said display designating unit determines that said image signal is not displayed by said image display device while said image sensing apparatus photographs said image signal.